

TIP OF THE

March 5, 2004

SWORD

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey



Preparing for change

39th ABG commander relinquishes command

TIP OF THE SWORD

Volume 33 ♦ Number 8 ♦
http://source/39ABG_PA/html/tos.html



Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda

Senior Airman Christie Cowart, 39th Medical Squadron technician, examines Senior Airman LaKina Hill, 39th MDS X-ray technician, Wednesday at the immediate care clinic. See related story, Page 3.

NEWS

Transitions: 39th ABG redesignates to 39th ABW March 12 3

Clinic changes: Emergency room becomes Immediate Care Clinic3

Combat ready: Base participates in first week-long exercise 4

Consolidation: Portal offers one-stop shopping for AF information 4

Close watch: Leaders re-energize their suicide prevention efforts 4



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

39th Security Forces Squadron members participate in a simulated hostage negotiation during a series of weeklong exercises dedicated to surety and full-spectrum threat response exercises and an attack and response exercise. See related story, Page 4.

FEATURE

Lend me an ear: Red Cross volunteers offer food, friendship to U.S. soldiers from Iraq6

SPORTS

Barefoot and fit: Pilates offers whole-body approach to exercise7

EDITORIAL

Action Line: Shopper unhappy with store hours 8

Reflections: Group commander looks back at tenure 8

ASK MEHMET

Wedded bliss: Turkish weddings from start to finish 9

COMMUNITY

The Incirlik Guide10

Combat and Special Interest Programs10

Your Turn: Community members thank U.S. soldiers from Iraq 11

Warrior of the Week12

At the Movies 12

Club offers deals12

On the cover:

Col. William MacLure, 39th Air Base Group commander, will relinquish command of the group during a ceremony March 12. See related stories, Pages 3 and 7. (Photo illustration by Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer)

Editorial Staff

Col. Bill MacLure, 39th Air Base Group Commander
Capt. Rickardo Bodden, Public Affairs Chief
2nd Lt. Elizabeth Culbertson, Deputy Chief
Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips, Public Affairs NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda, Internal Information, NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles, Editor
Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer, Staff Writer
Mehmet Birbiri, Host Nation Adviser

10th Tanker Base Commander
Brig. Gen. H. Levent Turkmen

The 39th Air Base Group Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Tip of the Sword. The 39th ABG Public Affairs Office (Unit 7090, Box 135, APO AE 09824-5153) is located in Building 833, Room 274. **Submissions:** The editor or other Tip of the Sword staff will edit or re-write material for clarity brevity or to conform with the Associated Press Style Guide, local policy and Air Force style as required by Air Force Instruction 35-101. Contributions for the Tip of the Sword can be made through e-mail to tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil. The editor can be reached at 676-6060. **Deadlines:** Submission deadlines are Wednesday, nine days, prior to publication date. If submissions are publishable, they run based on space available and priority. **Disclaimer:** The Tip of the Sword is printed by Kemal Matbaasi, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written agreement with the 39th Air Base Group. This funded Air Force magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Unless otherwise noted, photographs are Air Force photos. The Tip of the Sword uses information from the Armed Forces Information Service, Air Force News Service, U.S. Forces in Europe News Service and other sources. Contents of Tip of the Sword are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. **Contact Information:** To reach the 39th Air Base Group Public Affairs staff, call 6-3217, fax 6-6492, e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil or stop by Building 833, Room 274.

Incirlik reverts to wing structure

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

The 39th Air Base Group will redesignate to the 39th Air Base Wing during a ceremony March 12 at 10 a.m. in Hangar 4, followed by a reception at the consolidated club complex.

A wing structure will provide Incirlik Air Base with the level of experienced leadership, supervision and knowledge necessary to ensure the base can continue to successfully execute its mission, U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials said.

"We're adding another tier of base leadership to ensure the structure of our unit is appropriate to ongoing responsibilities," said Col. William MacLure, 39th ABG commander.

The change includes the reactivation of two groups: 39th Maintenance Group and 39th Mission Support Group.

"The wing structure will place us in a better position to oversee current and future opera-

tions," Colonel MacLure said.

Incirlik supports Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and also serves as a hub for thousands of U.S. soldiers transiting out of Iraq. Additionally, the base oversees 10 separate squadrons and five geographically separated units.

"Incirlik has a broad span of responsibility," Col. MacLure said. "The redesignation will ensure the base's continued success."

The redesignation will be transparent to most base people and will minimally affect day-to-day operations, officials said.

"With its strategic location and ability to support a full spectrum of operations, Incirlik has been and continues to be one of USAFE's key installations," Colonel MacLure said. "I'm confident the wing structure will enable us to continue our success long into the future."

During the ceremony, Colonel MacLure will relinquish command of the group and Col.

Michael Gardiner will assume command of the wing. Colonel Gardiner is the former vice commander, 11th Wing, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

Col. Robert Suminsby Jr., former advanced weapons and sensors chief for the Air Force Element Special Programs at the Pentagon, will be the new vice commander.

Additionally, the 39th MXG and the 39th MSG will stand up.

Col. Michael Arnold, 39th ABG deputy commander, will be the acting 39th MXG commander until Col. Mary Parker, former 605th Air Support Squadron commander, Yokota Air Base, Japan, arrives.

The 39th MSG will be led by Col. David Wilmot, from tactical evaluations for Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, Naples, Italy.

For more information, stay tuned to American Forces Network-Incirlik and the commander's access channel.

Emergency room transitions to immediate care clinic

By Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

With the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Silver rotation coming to an end, so are the on-base, 24-hour emergency services offered at the 39th Medical Squadron.

The Emergency Room transitioned to an Ambulance Service on Saturday, with emergency response services offered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The medical squadron also established an immediate care clinic.

General surgical capabilities and inpatient services are no longer available, but the ICC is still able to do same-day orthopedic and ear, nose and throat surgeries at this time.

Since 2000, the 39th MDS received a certain amount of AEF assets to help man the emergency room. That augmentation ended Sunday, according to Lt. Col. John Chitwood, 39th MDS commander, and with it ended Incirlik Air Base's ability to support an emergency room.

"The 39th Medical Squadron has changed and tailored their services to best meet the needs of the Incirlik AB community with the resources they have available to them," said Colonel Chitwood.

But people shouldn't worry about receiving immediate care if an emergency should occur, the colonel said.

"The ICC offers the same services the emergency room did, just during limited hours," he said. "And we still have 24/7 ambulance support. Just dial 911, and we'll send an ambulance to you right away."

The ICC is open Mondays through Fridays, 2 to 10 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"During those hours, we will not turn anyone away who needs care," said Senior Master Sgt. Maggie Boyd, 39th Medical Operations Flight superintendent. "We have the ability and process to make appointments in the ICC; however, if someone comes in with a situation that appears to be more critical, we will triage the situation and see them right away, ensuring appropriate and timely care."

The hours the ICC is closed are based on times when the emer-



Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda
Senior Airman Christie Cowart, 39th Medical Squadron technician, examines Senior Airman LaKina Hill, 39th MDS X-ray technician, Wednesday in the Immediate Care Clinic.

gency room was the least busy in the past, according to Col. Chitwood.

After hours, ambulances are available, and those needing emergency medical attention will be transported to one of two off-base hospitals, Baskant or Universal. The determination of which hospital a patient is transported to is based on which facility can give the highest level of care for the patients' specific medical needs.

"These two facilities are in our network and what we determined as the best hospitals in the area to take care of our patients," said Sergeant Boyd. "And anytime we have to take patients off-base for medical care, we have one of our TRICARE liaisons come in right away and accompany our patients downtown to act as our interpreters."

The colonel asks those with non-emergencies to call the central appointment line at 6-6173. He also encourages everyone to take advantage of the 24-hour personal health adviser at extension 222. People can pick up the phone anywhere on base and speak to a registered nurse or access the audio health library right away.

Incirlik kicks off quarterly exercises

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

With increasing spring-like weather Feb. 25 and 26, the base sweated through the first attack response exercise in 13 months and received a “satisfactory” for the overall rating.

“Based on the standards we set (proper wear of chemical gear, full base participation, and continuous information flow among units and leadership), I would give us a B+ or A-,” said Maj. Robert McNease, 39th Air Base Group readiness and plans chief and exercise evaluation team chief.

The first two days of the weeklong exercise Feb. 23 to 26 were dedicated to surety and full-spectrum threat response exercises. Base personnel responded to chlorine leaks, base wide recall, a hostage negotiation, and still found time to implement pre-attack measures in preparation for the ARE.

During the ARE, Incirlik Airmen, mission-essential civilians and Vinnell, Brown and Root workers were tested with a barrage of “enemy attacks.” Through it all they had to take cover, don their protective gear, conduct sweeps for chemical and unexploded ordnance and perform self-aid and buddy care on their “wounded” comrades.

The exercises were designed to test Incirlik’s response to chemical and attack threats. For some individuals, the exercise was the first time they put on their chemical gear in more than 15 years.

“I forgot how confining and restrictive the chemical suit is,” said Bill Lawson, 39th Air Base Group family support center director, who is one of several mission-essential civilians that wear the gear along with their military counterparts.



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Murat Birir (left), 39th Civil Engineer Squadron crew chief, examines Cumali Canpolat, 39th CES firefighter, before he dons his protective gear during a recent base exercise.

“I’m not in as good shape as I used to be, so it’s important to participate in these exercises. It’s good practice to stay current,” Mr. Lawson added.

In the future, exercises will be scheduled on a quarterly basis to comply with U.S. Air Force in Europe standards of 48-hour continuous exercise play in mission-oriented protective posture gear with at least three hours per shift in MOPP 4.

The standards are designed to give Airmen a taste of the physical

See **Exercise**, Page 5

Portal streamlines access to information

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force senior leaders have asked that all Airmen sign up for a new Web-based technology that promises to streamline access to information across the force — the Air Force Portal.

In a December information technology initiatives memo, Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper asked that all Airmen sign up for an Air Force Portal account as soon as possible.

“The Air Force Portal will be the Airman’s interface to all services and information needed to perform his or her job,” the memo stated.

Airmen may register for access to the portal by logging onto the Web site at <https://www.my.af.mil> and clicking on the self-registration link. The registration process is self-guided.

The portal is a Web-based system developed to incorporate as many Air Force information applications as possible. The result of such an integration is that systems such as the virtual military personnel flight or functional area applications, such as a munitions

ordering or parts tracking system, would all be accessible from one Web site, said Lt. Col. Dan Hausauer, portal integration division chief.

The key benefit to such an integration is the idea of a single-user login. Once a user logs in, the portal itself authenticates a user into the application. This means that with each new application integrated into the portal, users will have one less Web address, login name and password to remember, Colonel Hausauer said.

“It will streamline all our processes for accessing our personal information,” said Master Sgt. Cynthia Clarke, 39th Communications Squadron systems engineering chief. “In the future, it will include myPay and virtual MPF, too. We won’t have to remember a bunch of different passwords; everything will be accessible at www.my.af.mil. It really is that simple.”

The logistics community has done the most to integrate their applications into the portal and to integrate the system into their own processes, Colonel Hausauer said. Besides logistics applications, other applications such as myPay and LeaveWeb are soon to follow.

A recent change to the portal makes it even easier for users to get access. Now, users can access the system from any Internet-connected

computer at home, at work or on the road, Colonel Hausauer said.

When users are on temporary duty, the portal makes it easy to stay in contact with co-workers at their permanent duty stations in real-time. The portal now includes an instant messaging system similar to those found on the dot-com side of the Internet.

“A challenge for us is to get owners to come to us with their applications and to work with us to integrate them into the portal,” Colonel Hausauer said. “We can make our security layer work for them, plus give them the benefit of the single user login.”

Besides providing an integrated interface to existing Air Force applications, the portal provides functionality of its own. The portal includes a “white pages” section that lists everybody in the Air Force. It includes personalization features that let users adjust the presentation to suit their needs.

The system even allows users to upload favorites from their desktop computers, so those frequently used Web addresses are available from anywhere in the world.

For more information, call Sergeant Clarke at 6-8342.

Air Force leaders evaluate suicide-prevention efforts

By G.W. Pomeroy

Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — After 11 active-duty suicides since Jan. 1 and 14 during the final quarter of 2003, Air Force senior leaders are asking commanders and leaders across the service to assess and re-energize suicide-prevention efforts at all levels.

The 2003 calendar year suicide rate of 10.5 per 100,000 people was the lowest of all the military services and one-half the rate of a comparable civilian population of males between the ages of 20 and 50. As of Feb. 24, the service's suicide rate was 18.1.

In a letter sent to all major commands, the Air Force's acting assistant vice chief of staff urges all Airmen to continue pitching in to reduce the number of suicides.

"Suicide is not stopped by medical personnel in emergency rooms; it is stopped by addressing quality-of-life issues in the unit on a daily basis," Lt. Gen. Richard Brown III wrote in the letter.

"The major components of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program are active leadership involvement, an emphasis on community involvement and a focus on prevention throughout the life of airmen and their fami-

lies, not just when they are suicidal," General Brown wrote. "Pay special attention to the quality of your suicide-prevention briefings.

The Air Force requires active-duty and civilian personnel to attend suicide-prevention briefings once during the 15-month aerospace expeditionary force cycle.

Suicide prevention briefings are offered on a monthly basis at Incirlik. For dates and locations, people should call their unit training manager.

Air Force leaders take a community approach in suicide prevention, encouraging every Airman to take responsibility in reducing the number of suicides.

A key element of the program is to make a steady pipeline of suicide-prevention tools available for Air Force people at all levels. So far in 2004, the Air Force Medical Service has issued the 2004 Leader's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress, which is geared to help commanders, first sergeants and other leaders recognize when their people are distressed and how to respond appropriately.

The guide was distributed as a CD-ROM to every squadron commander and first sergeant in the Air Force and can be viewed on the dot-mil-restricted Air Force Suicide Prevention Program Web site, <https://www.afms.mil/afsp>.

Exercise

Continued from Page 4

inconveniences that would occur when wearing the chemical suit and simulate wartime conditions.

"The ARE is nothing compared to the reality of war," Major McNease said. "If you think wearing a mask for a few hours is bad when it's 60 degrees outside, realize it's a walk in the park compared to just changing one variable: the temperature.

"The third quarter ARE (planned for sometime in July to September when the temperature hovers around 90 degrees) will pose a significant challenge. Ignoring rest work cycles and hydration can get people killed."

Major McNease said there are a few things people can do to set themselves up for success in future exercises like reading and understanding the information in the Incirlik Air Base Concept of Operations; Ability to Survive and Operate guide, AF Handbook 32-4014, Volume 4; and Airman's Manual, AF Manual 10-100.

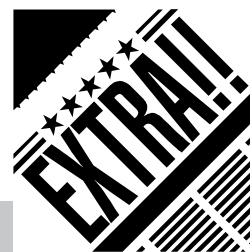
The CONOPS guide, which each exercise player must physically carry on their person during AREs, can be found on the source at <http://source/39CES/Readiness/Readiness.htm> or by requesting one through the unit FSTR representative.

However, Major McNease said the biggest element of a successful exercise isn't something you find in a book. It's the exercise participant displaying a positive attitude and showing a sense of urgency when reacting to scenarios.

"Exercise personnel should participate as though the exercise is the single most important event in one's life at that moment. If you're into sports, exercises are the Super Bowl or World Series.

"Just like in sports, games aren't won on the field, but in practice," he added.

For more information on exercise readiness, contact the 39th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness section at 6-8282.



IN
BRIEF

Patriot Express cancellation

Air Mobility Command officials temporarily cancelled several Patriot Express missions between the United States and Europe to use those aircraft to fill requirements for the massive Southwest Asia rotation of forces. March will bring the cancellation of five missions from Atlanta and BWI to Rhein-Main, Mildenhall and Aviano, and return. As a result, all Sunday Patriot Express missions for Incirlik are cancelled in March and April. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ruben Villarreal, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron passenger travel NCO in charge, at 6-6520.

Career assistance

Tech. Sgt. Roberta Williams is the new 39th Air Base Group career assistance adviser. For career information, stop by her office in Building 833, Room 174, or call 6-1019.

Airman of the year

The fourth annual Air Force Times AT&T "Airman of the Year" award nominations are due April 7. The award recognized the Airman who best embodies the finest qualities of the men and women serving in today's Air Force. Nominations can be made online at www.airforcetimes.com/airman, e-mailed to airman@airforcetimes.com, faxed to (703) 642-7325 or mailed to Air Force Times "Airman of the Year" Award, Air Force Times, 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, Va., 22159.

Gas coupon policy

Incirlik's new gas coupon policy limits people to 100 liters of gas coupons and 400 liters of diesel coupons per month. People can exceed the limit with their commander's approval. The sale or transfer of gas coupons to unauthorized people is illegal. For more information, call the legal office at 6-6800 or visit the Source and review policy number 30.

Dormitory maintenance

All dormitory maintenance requirements should be reported to the central dormitory management office. The CDM will contact the civil engineer squadron and contact the requester to confirm scheduled repair date and time. For more information, call 6-6232.

Helping hand

Red Cross volunteers offer food, friendly ear to U.S. soldiers from Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles

39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

As they enter Incirlik's temporary terminal, hundreds of U.S. soldiers from Iraq stop by the shoppette and souvenir booths, but ultimately end up at a makeshift Red Cross stand.

The Red Cross is helping out at the terminal by providing hot beverages and baked goods to thousands of troops transiting the base during a massive troop changeover in Iraq.

Weary from the trip and a year-long deployment in Iraq, most of the soldiers line up at the stand for a cup of hot coffee or a handful of homemade chocolate chip cookies to kill time as they wait to board a plane home.

Others are looking for something more.

"We've had soldiers sit and talk with us for hours," said Vicky Wisnom, American Red Cross station manager. "They tell us stories about the war and their personal experiences, or talk about their families. We just let them talk because that's what they need to do."

Ms. Wisnom is one of the more than 100



Photos by Airman 1st Class Joseph Thompson

Vicky Wisnom (right) and Peggie Lawson, both Red Cross volunteers, ensure a U.S. soldier from Iraq has fresh coffee while she waits for her flight home.



Vicky Wisnom (right) and Peggie Lawson, both Red Cross volunteers, greet Army Col. Donald "Skip" Mundragon, 21st Combat Support Hospital officer in charge.

Red Cross volunteers taking a turn at the terminal. She and many others, including active-duty people, spouses and members of private organizations, man the Red Cross booth at all hours of the day or night.

"There's always someone at the Red Cross canteen," Ms. Wisnom said. "We show up at 3 a.m. if necessary. Despite the hours, we get plenty of volunteers. People are eager to help out with such an important mission."

Erin Leonard, a Red Cross volunteer, has done everything from baking cookies to sewing on patches for the soldiers when the tailor shop is closed.

In turn, the troops are very appreciative, Ms. Leonard said.

"The soldiers love the food, especially when they find out it's homemade," she said. "But many just want to talk and show pictures and videos of their families. When a video is playing, there's not a dry eye in the hangar, including the soldiers."

Many conversations turn to recent experiences in Iraq.

"They talk about attacks and people from their unit who were killed or wounded, and the effect that had on morale," Ms. Leonard said.

"Many show us pictures from the war, some very gruesome," Ms. Wisnom added. "They've been through a lot."

As a Red Cross volunteer, Ms. Wisnom is familiar with this type of assistance.

"Whenever there's a natural disaster or other type of emergency, the Red Cross is there," she said.

The base office set up canteens for the dependent evacuation last year, both during the departure and return, and also had a canteen for Army troops as they reprocessed back to their home station last year.

Along with emergency assistance, the Red Cross office also aids in emergency communications, offers health and safety classes such as first aid and babysitting, and runs a local volunteer program.

"There are many facets to the Red Cross but this is the part of the job I enjoy most," Ms. Wisnom said.

"The troop rotation has polarized the entire community, as people come together to bake, help out at the canteen, or gather just to applaud the troops as they enter the hangar," she continued. "We're all very grateful for the sacrifices they've made and are happy to be of some assistance."

For more information about Red Cross programs or to volunteer, call 6-6639.

Fitness center offers barefoot, whole-body approach to exercise

By Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

Tennis shoes are a thing of the past at the fitness center thanks to a Pilates program, which offers a barefoot, whole-body approach to exercise for all age groups.

Pilates is a form of resistance exercise designed to strengthen and stretch muscles, increase flexibility, gain range of motion in joints and improve postural alignment.

The Pilates classes began in May 2003 because an aerobics instructor at the fitness center wanted to include a non-impact program to her aerobics schedule.

"People who desired to workout but could not perform step aerobics, kick boxing or cycling due to lower back, knee or ankle injuries were given an opportunity to participate in a non-impact program," said Tech. Sgt. Tiffani Johnson, 39th Services Squadron sports director.

The Pilates system of exercise is based upon six main principles, according to Sergeant Johnson: Identification and utilization of the core; pelvic and thoracic stabilization; engagement of the mind; flow and precision of movement with maximum efficiency while minimizing stress on the body; postural alignment; and harmony of breath.

"Basically, Pilates is a healthy activity that will strengthen muscles and make an individual more flexible," Sergeant Johnson said.

"Of course, prior to starting any and every exercise routine, a physician should be consulted," she continued. "If an individual does not have major health problems and already lives an active life, the participation in Pilates does not necessarily need a doctor's approval. For those individuals nursing injuries, the elderly or the pregnant, it's up to the instructor to provide modifications.



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

Sonia Shields, an aerobics instructor, demonstrates a Pilates pose Wednesday at the fitness center.

Because full range of motion for the ankles is needed, Sergeant Johnson recommends participants lose their shoes and wear loose-fitting clothes that are comfortable to move around in.

"People shouldn't be afraid to try Pilates," she said. "It's a fun and relaxing experience that most will enjoy. We ask that customers show up with a positive attitude and realize they may need to attend two or three classes before they decide if they really like it."

Pilates is currently held at the fitness center Mondays and Fridays from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All active duty members and their families, Department of Defense civilians, and Turkish nationals 18 years and older are eligible to attend the free classes. For more information, call the Pilates instructor, Ozlum, at 6-5342, or Sergeant Johnson at 6-6086.



Volunteer coaches — The youth center needs volunteers to coach youth baseball. The season runs from April 17 to June 12. To volunteer, stop by the youth center and pick up a volunteer packet. For more information, call Bo Benton, recreation specialist, at 6-6670.

Rugby — Rugby enthusiasts meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 5

p.m. at the high school sports field. Everyone is welcome. Instruction is provided for beginners. For more information, call the fitness center at 6-6086.

Skeet and trap shooting — Outdoor recreation offers skeet and trap shooting Tuesdays through Fridays by appointment. Open shooting begins Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10 and includes shells and clays. For more information, call 6-6044.

Blood and guts club — People get rewards for lifting a predetermined amount of weights in the bench press, deadlift and squats to win T-shirts and windbreakers. For more information, call 6-6086.

Combat Hapkido — The fitness center sponsors Combat Hapkido Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:45 p.m. and Fridays at

6:30 p.m. For more information, call the fitness center at 6-6086.

Circuit training class — The fitness center sponsors full-body circuit training classes Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the base gym. For more information, call Dustin Johnson, class instructor, at 6-3466 or 6-6788.

Bowling leagues — The Magic Carpet Bowling Center sponsors intramural league bowling Mondays and Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 6-6789.

Rhythmic gymnastics — Rhythmic gymnastics are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. for ages 5 and up. Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. For more information, call the youth center at 6-6670.

ACTION
LINE

Col. Bill MacLure
39th Air Base Group Commander

Shop-n-go

Concern: I've only been at Incirlik for about five-and-a-half months, and am having a hard time figuring out why the shoppette hours are so limited. I've never been to a base where the shoppette closes at 10 p.m. Because of these hours, most people working mid shifts can't grab a cup of coffee before heading to work.

This past week, there were a few days the shoppette was closed

more than it was open because of inventories and holidays. It was even closed the day of the Super Bowl! Why is this? I know inventories are vital, but why aren't they done when the shoppette is closed?

Response: Since March, Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials have changed the shoppette hours twice to accommodate customer traffic and base needs. The shoppette was open 364 days in 2003, and I am pleased to note AAFES commitment in 2004 is to have the shoppette open 365 days. AAFES gained that extra day due to new technology that allows inventory to be conducted while the store remains open. Customer traffic for the mid shift hours will be reviewed. The shoppette's current hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Regarding Super Bowl Sunday, the shoppette was open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to accommodate our host nation's important Feast of Sacrifice holiday. AAFES apologizes for any inconvenience this caused, and any future hours of operational change will be publicized in advance. Next year we will be more careful planning our hours during Super Bowl weekend. AAFES, along with all our customer service functions, remains committed to serving base community members. Thank you for helping us better meet community needs.

Group commander reflects on tenure

By Col. William MacLure
39th Air Base Group commander

As I prepare to turn over the reins of command here at Incirlik, I reflect back to my assumption of command. The main theme of the comments I made during that ceremony only nine short months ago was — change. Little did I know how accurate I was. The change continues.

Back in July, we went from the 39th Wing to the 39th Air Base Group, and next week we will go through the ceremonial motions to become the 39th Air Base Wing. Change continues to be the constant for the 39th, but, despite all of this organizational turmoil, the men and women of Team Incirlik continue to perform superbly. We moved the ball down the field, closer to the goal and have accomplished many great things. Despite the uncertainty of the mission and the continued high threat, you still got the job done.

It was a great honor for me to serve as the 39th ABG commander. I have seen this group go from 10 separate squadrons with 10 different agendas to one team all pulling together with all eyes on one thing — accomplishing the mission. Incirlik is a unique base with a unique mission. We are unlike other bases with permanently assigned aircraft and steady-state missions. Our mission is to be ready to support whatever taskings come our way, from hosting fighter weapons training deployments, to facilitating the flow of personnel and equipment to downrange locations, to preparing for full-up combat operations, to whatever else our national or NATO command authorities need us to do.

“Regardless of what we are called upon to do, Team Incirlik always gets the job done with flying colors.”

Incirlik has done all of these things in the past; we continue with some of them today and will likely do more of them in the future. Regardless of what we are called upon to do, Team Incirlik always gets the job done with flying colors.

You have proved it time and time again, and continue to prove it today. In August, we were given the task of bedding down up to 10 KC-135 air refueling aircraft to support both Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. It was only a matter of days before all the pieces fell into place. The operations and maintenance facilities were made ready, billeting rooms prepared, vehicles prepped and processes established to ensure a safe, efficient and smooth-running operation. That smooth-running operation continues today. More than 25 million pounds of fuel have been offloaded to C-17 aircraft flowing downrange from Incirlik-based tankers.

In late December, just before the holidays, we again got word that Incirlik would be a critical node in the transportation system being set up to move tens of thousands of Army soldiers out of Iraq and back home.

Again, Team Incirlik went into action with

close coordination between the 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 728th Air Mobility Squadron, 39th Services Squadron, 39th Maintenance Squadron, 39th Communications Squadron, Army and Air Forces in Europe and many others to transform one of our aircraft hangars into a contingency passenger terminal.

When the first Army soldiers arrived at Incirlik just after the beginning of the New Year, they walked into a facility that raised the bar to a new standard when it comes to conducting transit operations, but more importantly, they were greeted by the cheers of our people — people who have made a difference to the more than 4,500-plus soldiers that have transited through Incirlik so far.

These are only two examples of the many real-world missions Team Incirlik was called upon to do, each one of them conducted with enthusiasm, excellence and pride, all directly contributing to our nation's Global War on Terrorism and all making a difference. I am so proud of all the work our Incirlik warriors do. You should be equally proud.

As I prepare to move back to the Pentagon, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the great support you have given me. As you have heard me say before, the reason the United States has the world's best Air Force is because of the great people in it.

Thanks for all you do and for the sacrifices you and your families make to serve our great nation. As for the future of Incirlik, only time will tell, but one thing is for sure — it will continue to change.



ASK MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri
Host Nation Adviser

I do?

Question: Can you explain Turkish marriage customs?

Response: Turkish weddings differ distinctively from one region to another, in urban and rural areas.

The official marriage arrangement signing ceremony is followed by a large celebration at a wedding hall where relatives, friends and acquaintances come together to dance, drink, eat and shower the new couple with gifts and good wishes.

Although most marriages are an agreement between two people, some are still arranged by families. Whether or not it's arranged, the couple and their families follow traditions which have been very popular for ages.

If it is a family-arranged marriage, the young man's family, mainly his mother and other female relatives, start a search for a suitable bride. The word spreads, and friends, relatives and neighbors might bring forth some candidates. The candidate could be someone they saw in a market, gathering or ceremony. If they don't know who she is, the family finds out about her family and where she lives. Then a message is sent to her family stating that they would like to visit to see the young woman. Traditionally, the woman's family does not refuse.

On a prearranged day, the young man and a few of his close relatives visit the woman's house. The woman traditionally dresses up and serves Turkish coffee to the guests. The guests have a closer look at the woman and her family. After drinking coffee, the guests then thank the family for their hospitality and leave without any comment. After leaving, they discuss the woman and her family.

If the family approves, and once the man declares his intention to marry her, representatives of the groom (usually female relatives escorted by a respected elderly woman) visit the woman's family. As the prospective bride serves the visitors, the groom's representatives explain their proposition. Normally, the bride's family asks the woman's consent and answers the other party within a week. The woman's family finds out about the young man and his family as well.

If they receive a positive answer, the groom's parents visit the bride's side with several elderly and respected members of the family.

Meanwhile, they discuss the specific household gifts each family will give the couple. The approximate date of the wedding is also set during those talks. At the end of discussions, the families have dessert.

Dessert, mainly baklava, is delivered to the neighbors and friends as an announcement of the agreement. Eating sweet things after the agreement represents the wish that everything goes sweetly in the marriage.



Courtesy photo

Gulten Dartici (**left**) and Hasan Dartici celebrate their marriage. On the wedding day, the eldest brother of the bride ties a red ribbon around her waist to signify the bride's virginity.

Shortly afterward, an engagement ceremony is held, during which the groom places an engagement ring on the bride's finger. It's customary at this time to give the bride gifts, such as gold bracelets, necklaces and other jewelry.

Before the wedding ceremony, the household goods of the couple are carried to the new house. You might have seen some trucks carrying furniture and people clapping, dancing and beating drums.

The eve before the wedding is called henna night. The girl's friends gather at her house, play music, dance and sing. They also tint the bride's finger or hand with henna. It's customary to sing sad songs at the end of the night. Another tradition is the bride's crying. It signifies the bride's sorrow at separating from her family.

Meanwhile, the groom's friends gather at the groom's house and have a kind of bachelor party. They eat, drink, sing and dance. One of the groom's close friends or relatives confidentially teaches the inexperienced groom the gentle ways and manners he should show his wife on their wedding night, which, if properly exercised, will ultimately win her heart forever. The groom's confidant sometimes buys this right to provide such advice through an auction in the groom's honor.

While most wedding ceremonies last one day, some regions may celebrate weddings three to seven days, depending on the wealth of the family.

On the wedding day, the eldest brother of the bride ties a red ribbon around her waist which signifies her virginity. In Turkey, as in many other cultures, it's considered a matter of honor and pride for the bride's family.

During the ceremony, the couple signs the marriage registration book in front of the mayor or an official acting on behalf of the mayor. As soon as the book is signed, the bride and groom race each other to step upon the top of his or her spouse's shoe, which brings

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

In Turkish

evlilik - marriage
(ev-lee-lick)

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE



Sunday

Farewell dinner — Col. MacLure's farewell dinner is 6 p.m. at the club. Dress is smart casual. RSVP to Denise Wickam at 6-3900 by close of business today.

Pet neutering — An Army veterinary team will be at Incirlik Sunday through March 12 to perform neutering surgery for pets. People with pets that need to be neutered and are not on the list, call the veterinary clinic at 6-3119.

Tuesday

Spouses — The International Spouses' Group is meeting from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the family support center to talk about managing taxes in mixed-nationality marriages. For more information, call Nancy Shrope at 6-6755.

Wednesday

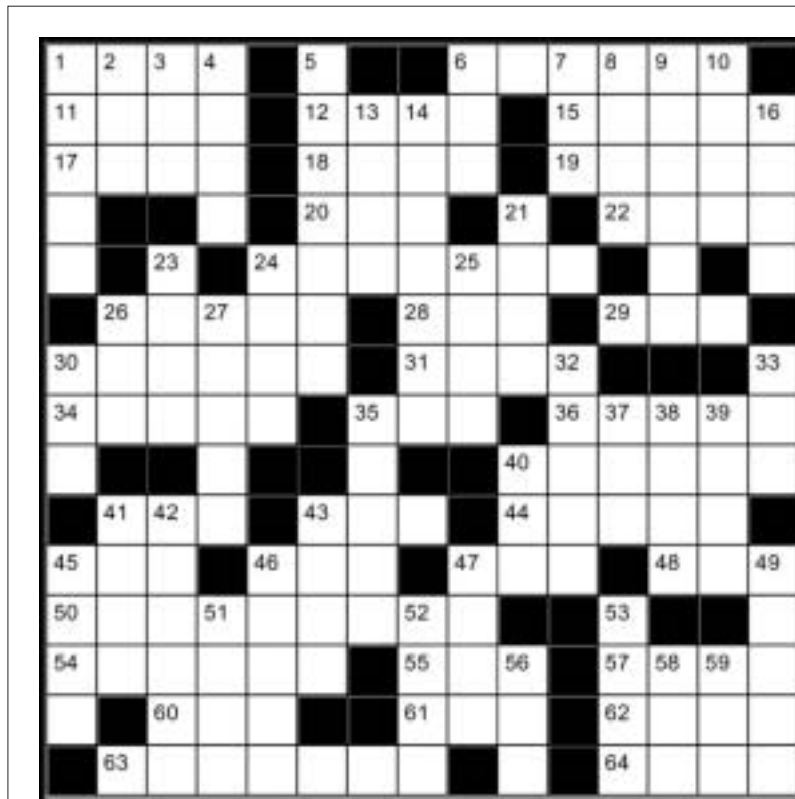
Dorm Council — The Dorm Council will meet at noon in the club complex, piper's room lounge. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Ken Winfield at 6-8075, or Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Smith at 6-3489.

Smoking cessation — The health and wellness center offers a smoking cessation class every Wednesday for four weeks starting this Wednesday. People can either attend at noon or 6 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call 6-4292.

Thursday

Annual awards banquet — Team Incirlik's annual awards banquet is at 6 p.m. in the consolidated club complex Turan Ballroom. Dress is semi-formal or mess dress for military people and semi-formal for civilians.

Flower arranging — The skills development center offers an Easter floral decoration class Thurs-



By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

1. Lady
6. First woman elected to the US House of Representatives (1916)
11. Regretted
12. Killer whale
15. Craves
17. Stare
18. Condemn
19. Rubber
20. Blockade
22. Star Trek character
24. Woman who established first charitable organization for women
26. French cubist painter Fernand _____
28. Oklahoma town
29. Cash machine
30. Runner-up place
31. Lair
34. First native born American woman to be made a saint (1809)
35. Military pay statement
36. Small restaurant
40. First woman elected mayor in America (1887)
41. Intimidate
43. Direction to NY from Texas
44. Beneath
45. Actor Vigoda
46. Part of a min.
47. Terminate
48. French lady (abbrev.)
50. First US woman with a medical degree (1849)
54. Wisconsin college

55. Type
 57. First woman US governor—Wyoming (1925)
 60. Italian three
 61. Snake-like fish
 62. Bet
 63. First woman to win a Pulitzer Prize (1921)
 64. Golf props
- ### DOWN
1. Sag
 2. Summer mon.
 3. Singer Torme
 4. Steinbeck novel, *East of _____*
 5. First woman publisher in America (1766)
 6. Aries sign
 7. National radio network (abbrev.)
 8. First US woman to receive a patent (1809)
 9. Slight
 10. Apollo 11 astronaut Armstrong
 13. Bellow
 14. Cohort
 16. Ostracize
 21. USAF Korea AB
 23. Faction
 24. Actor Sean of *Sam I Am*
 25. Beware the _____ of March; *Julius Caesar*
 26. Confederate general
 27. First African-American woman to receive a patent (1885)
 30. Compass direction
 32. Frequency used for video satellite feed
 33. Each
 35. Cyclist Armstrong
 37. Ancient
 38. Object
 39. Duration
 40. Center of the solar system
 41. Competent
 42. Affluence
 43. Salamander
 45. Women's suffragist _____ Hadassah Smith
 46. What Tommy Moe is
 47. Woman's magazine
 49. Relieves
 51. Actress Witherspoon of *Twilight*
 52. Garnishment
 53. Spoiled child
 56. Dutch airlines
 58. Single
 59. Sault _____ Marie

The solution will be published in the March 12 issue.

day from 5 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 6-3858.

Toastmasters — Toastmasters International meets the first and third Thursday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the consolidated club complex Piper Room. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sheris Poisson, Toastmasters vice president, at 6-6954.

Upcoming

Club member appreciation — The club membership appreciation breakfast is March 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Non-members will be charged \$5.95, guests \$2.95, children 6 to 12 \$1.95 and children under 5 are free. For more information, call the club at 6-6101.

USAFE Annual Awards — Tickets for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Annual Awards Banquet are available for purchase until March 25. The banquet is April 2 at 6 p.m. at the Ramstein Air Base, Germany Officers' Club. The tickets are \$23 for club members and \$26 for non-members. For more information, call squadron first sergeants.

Scholarship essays — The Incirlik African American Heritage Council will award three \$1,000 scholarships to Incirlik High School seniors based on essays written by the students. Interested students should submit their essays to Sandra Daniels, Incirlik H.S. principal by April 15. For more information, call Master Sgt. Weston at 6-8884.

COMBAT & SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

Ongoing

Hidden Heroes volunteers — The Hidden Heroes office seeks volunteers. For more information or to view a list of volunteer opportunities, call 6-6755.

Upcoming

National Volunteer Week — Volunteers are needed to plan events and activities for National Volunteer Week April 18 to 24. For more information or to volunteer, call Christina at 6-6755.



SALUTES

Officer promotions

The March officer promotees are:

To lieutenant colonel: Steven Schaick, 39th Air Base Group staff

To captain: Alan McCracken, 39th Security Forces Squadron

To first lieutenant: Yon Dugger, 39 SFS; Michael Norvell, 39th Operations Squadron; and Joy Tredway, 39th Services Squadron

Enlisted promotions

The March enlisted promotees are:

To master sergeant: Robert Tarbox, 39 MXS

To technical sergeant: Traci Hughes, 728th Air Mobility Squadron; Julie Frostick, 39th Medical Squadron; and Jimmy Watson, 425th Air Base Squadron

To staff sergeant: Michael Banes, 39th Communications Squadron; Duane Bradway, 425 ABS; Andrea Cherubin, 39 MDS; Angel Crawford, 39th Logistics Readiness Squad-

ron; Bryan Darby, 39th Mission Support Squadron; Montoya Shantez Goodloe, 39 MSS; Carmeisha Denise Layton, 39 LRS; Jenifer Lazore, 39 LRS; Linda Ochs, 39 MDS; and Christopher Williams, 39th Maintenance Squadron

To senior airman: Gary Beal, 39 CS; Latamara Bellard, 39 SFS; Jasen Dionne, 39 CS; Cipriano Mena, 39 MXS; and Juan Sanchez, 39 CS

To airman first class: James Watzka, 39 SFS

To airman: Ryan Eichten, 39 MDS; Lee Grundmann, 39 OS; and Porter Thompkins, 39 LRS

Defense Agency Award

Two civilian employees here recently received the Partnership for Success Award from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Limestone, Limestone, Maine.

Ercan Yavuz and Sami Ozlav were honored for their "outstanding contributions in creating and maintaining a highly dynamic and responsive partnership between DFAS Limestone and its customers."

Customer College Program

Congratulations to the following Distinguished Graduates of the Customer College Program: Staff Sgt. Nikki Cobb, 39 OS, and Staff Sgt. Joyce Sheppard, 39 MSS.

brella, \$100; matching swing with extra cushion covers, \$50; men's bike, \$20; and women's bike, \$50. Call 6-2236.

For sale: Floor model television, older but in great condition, great for kid's play room or for games, cable ready with input and output jacks. Call Staff Sgt. Smith at 6-6729 or 6-5254.

For sale: Full-size couch and loveseat, floral print, very comfortable, smoke-free home, \$300 OBO. Call Jeremy or Ashley at 6-5718 (home) or 6-6757 (work).

Free to good home: Young female German Shepherd mix. Loveable and playful. Good with children and current on shots. Call Melissa at 6-5190 during the day or 6-6688 at night.

Wanted: Outdoor play equipment (slides, plastic structures, swings, etc.). Call Davis or Amy at 6-5285.

Help wanted: Nutritionists/Dietitians/Nurses. Requires a bachelor's degree in Nutrition, Dietetics, Nursing or Home Economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition required. Registered Dietician preferred. Experience with WIC desirable. Must have current driver's license. E-mail resume, cover letter and copy of applicable licenses to wicjobs@cmse.net and staci.crawford@lakenheath.af.mil, fax to (210) 341-3455, or mail to Choctaw Management Services Enterprise, Attn: WIC Overseas, 2162 NW Military Hwy, Suite 308, San Antonio, Texas, 78231. For more information, call DSN 226-9016.

YOUR TURN



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

What message would you like to send to the Army troops transiting from Iraq through Incirlik Air Base to their home post?

"I want to thank them for helping catch Saddam Hussein. I'm thankful they fought for us (American citizens), and the Iraqi people to help restart their country."

- Airman Scott Sislo, 39th Security Forces Squadron



"I want them to know we really appreciate what they're doing because they're helping to keep my two children, Bobby, 4, and Priya, and all Americans safe. You allow us to live a life of freedom."

- Judy White, homemaker holding Priya, 20 months



"I would like to thank them for all they've done in the war on terror, and I wish each of them a safe return to their family and friends in the United States."

- Senior Master Sgt. William Walton, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron



"I would like to thank them for their service and dedication to our country, and I hope they're well-deserved time off is peaceful and enjoyable."

- Master Sgt. Paul Thompson, 39th Air Base Group safety office



"I'm happy that Incirlik can support you on your way home. It's important for people to get a chance to see family and friends, so they can restore their morale and positive energy. Enjoy your time off!"

- Mecbure Sert, Army and Air Force Exchange Service worker



CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: Computer desk, like new, \$20, call 6-5811.

For sale: Two standard lamps, 6 ft. tall. Modern up-light type, simple no-fuss design. Both in good working order, barely used. One dark green, and one matte black. Call Kelly at 6-5790 or 05355484247.

For sale: Beautiful persian handmade carpet. The base colors are deep red/burgundies but the carpet incorporates many different colors. Traditional intricate "medallion" design. Measures 12.5 ft X 9.5 ft, perfect for base house living room. Not available in the Alley. Taking offers of \$500. Best offer 10 days from publication secures carpet. Call Kelly at 6-5790 or 05355484247.

For sale: 1989 Toyota Corolla, "Japanese Specs," great dependable car, \$1,200 OBO. Call Carolyn at 6-2410.

For sale: Couch, loveseat and recliner, all recline, \$1,000; crib, mattress, sheet set, padding and diaper holder, \$150; Graco car seat (infant, toddler and booster), \$60; wet vacuum carpet cleaner, used four times, \$50; patio set with um-

Fill 'er up



Photos by Senior Airman James Seymore III

Staff Sgt. Deachole Baum (**Top**), 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service supervisor, and Mrs. Deniz Barcala (**Left**), Base Exchange customer service supervisor, go through the buffet line at the club Wednesday.

Beginning April 1, club dues for airmen basic through senior airmen first year after graduating from technical school will be free. Following the first year, dues will fall within the range of \$2 to \$4 until Airmen become staff sergeants. Current Airmen club members will be charged the reduced rate.

The club will not serve breakfast Tuesdays and Saturdays and will start closing at 4 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. The two for one steak night will move from Tuesdays to Thursdays. For more information, call the club administration at 6-6101.



AT THE MOVIES

At the Oasis

Today

Paycheck (PG-13) – Ben Affleck and Aaron Eckhart. Michael has his memory erased by his employer as a security precaution once he's completed special projects. After finishing his latest, he receives an envelope containing 19 items, including ticket stubs, bus tokens and other reminders he sent himself before the procedure. He's told he chose to forfeit any monetary compensation. The problem is, he can't remember a thing, since his brain has been wiped clean. (115 minutes)



He's told he chose to forfeit any monetary compensation. The problem is, he can't remember a thing, since his brain has been wiped clean. (115 minutes)

Saturday

Honey (PG-13) – Jessica Alba and Mekhi Phifer. Honey Daniels is an up-and-coming choreographer who finds her career in jeopardy after refusing to reciprocate the sexual advances of a music-industry bigwig. Determined to pick herself back up, Honey goes back to the inner-city of her youth with plans of starting a dance school. (94 minutes)

Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) – Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton – Harry generally dates younger women, but his world is turned upside-down when he has a heart attack while visiting his girlfriend's home. While his girlfriend goes back to the city, Harry is left in the care of her mother and his doctor. The two men soon find themselves competing with each other, as they both fall in love with Erica. (133 minutes)



The two men soon find themselves competing with each other, as they both fall in love with Erica. (133 minutes)

Sunday

The Haunted Mansion (PG) – Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Tilly. A real estate agent and his family visit an old mansion to

check out the property. But soon, the Evers crew is stranded there, along with 999 creepy ghosts. Mr. Evers discovers the only way to escape from the spooky house is to find a key. (98 minutes)

Gothika (R) – Halle Berry and Robert Downey Jr. – (97 minutes)

Thursday

Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) – Julia Roberts and Julia Stiles – (125 minutes)

At the M1

Brother Bear (PG) – 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (85 minutes)

Mona Lisa Smile – 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. (117 minutes)

Cold Mountain (R) – 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 9:15 p.m. and midnight (155 minutes)

The Last Samurai (R) – 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. (154 minutes)

Dumb and Dumberer – 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:15 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (85 minutes)

Lord of the Rings (PG-13) – 6 p.m. (201 minutes)

Kill Bill: Volume 1 – 12:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (96 minutes)

The provision of movie information does not constitute an endorsement by the 39th Air Base Group, U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force.